

Central Bedfordshire Council

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

15 January 2017

Post Ofsted Inspection Action Plan

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Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information for consideration on the Central Bedfordshire Council Children's Services Post Ofsted Inspection Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

1. Note the content of the report
2. Comment on the report

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. This item is planned to go to Overview and Scrutiny as a follow up to a previous briefing on the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection provided by the Director of Children's Services.

Issues

3. Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to ensuring that all children are happy, healthy and safe so that they get the best start in life. We are working with our partner agencies to further improve the services we provide to children, young people and their families.

4. The Post Ofsted Action Plan has been developed in response to the Ofsted Inspection that took place between 12 June and 6 July 2017. The Ofsted Inspection concluded that Children's Services in Central Bedfordshire are good and made nine recommendations. The Inspection considered:
 - Children who need help and protection – Good
 - Children looked after and achieving permanence – Requires improvement to be good 2.1 Adoption performance – Good 2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers –Good
 - Leadership, management and governance – Good
 - Local Safeguarding Children Board - Good
5. The Action Plan is informed by the nine recommendations in the Ofsted Inspection report published on 25 August 2017. The inspection report can be accessed via the following link:
https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/central_bedfordshire/052_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children's%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf
6. This Action Plan has been co-produced with managers and practitioners in Central Bedfordshire Council Children's Services, led by the Director of Children's Services. This Action Plan does not cover the work of the Local Children Safeguarding Board which is independent.

Options for consideration

7. None

Reason/s for decision

8. Not applicable

Reason for urgency

9. Not applicable

Council Priorities

10. The Post Ofsted Action Plan will support the local authority in continuing to provide a consistently high quality service to vulnerable children and their families, to ensure that they are protected and their welfare is promoted.

Corporate Implications

11. None

Legal Implications

12. None

Financial and Risk Implications

13. None

Equalities Implications

14. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Ensuring that children with additional vulnerabilities receive a consistently high quality service is central to meeting the statutory obligations of the local authority.

Conclusion and next Steps

15. The Action Plan contains SMART objectives with detailed actions to be carried out. Monitoring of the Action Plan is as follows:

- Monthly monitoring of the plan by the Director of Children's Services with the Directorate Team for the first three months then quarterly thereafter
- Local Safeguarding Children Board on a quarterly basis
- Overview and Scrutiny on a quarterly basis
- Frontline management team on a quarterly basis

16. Annual Report to the Corporate Leadership Team. The Action Plan will be updated monthly and provide evidence of progress against timescales. This will form the basis of regular monitoring. A data set and summary report will be prepared quarterly by the Deputy Director of Children's Services that will summarise progress and evidence how the identified actions are improving the service and the difference this is making for children and families in Central Bedfordshire. This will be submitted to the groups identified above to form the basis of the quarterly programme of review.

Appendices

17. The full Post Ofsted Action Plan is attached as an appendix.

Background Papers

18. None